

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 1, 2009. Claims 41, 43 to 46, 48 to 51 and 54 to 59 are in the application, with Claims 41 and 46 being independent. Claims 42 and 47 have been cancelled, Claims 54 to 59 have been newly added, and Claims 41, 45, 46 and 50 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 41 to 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,397,572 (Horii) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,204,940 (Lin). Claims 42 and 47 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 41 as amended generally concerns a color conversion method of converting a monochrome signal into a color space color signal on a color space independent of an apparatus. The method includes the steps of setting a tint adjustment value used to adjust the monochrome signal to a desired tint desired by a user, and acquiring color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a printing paper. The method further includes the steps of converting the monochrome signal into a chromaticity signal of the color space using the tint adjustment value set in the setting step and the color reproduction characteristics acquired in the acquiring step, and forming a color space color signal from the chromaticity signal converted in the converting step and a brightness signal according to the monochrome signal, and outputting the color space color signal. In the converting step, the monochrome signal is converted so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image

output apparatus and the printing paper, and map a chromaticity point of the tint adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color. In the acquiring step, the color reproduction characteristics dependent on the image output apparatus and the printing paper are acquired, as color values used as the black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing paper, from an output profile for converting a signal independent of the image output apparatus into a signal dependent on the image output apparatus.

Thus, among its many features, Claim 41 provides that color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a printing paper are acquired, as color values used as a black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing paper, from an output profile for converting a signal independent of the image output apparatus into a signal dependent on the image output apparatus.

By virtue of the foregoing feature, it is ordinarily possible to more accurately obtain color values used as black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing paper, from a profile used by a workflow that achieves the color match. Thus, more accurate conversion of the monochrome signal into the chromacity signal can be achieved.

Turning to the applied references, Horii and Lin are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature that color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a printing paper are acquired, as color values used as a black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing

paper, from an output profile for converting a signal independent of the image output apparatus into a signal dependent on the image output apparatus.

As understood by Applicant, Horii discloses a printer in which an image processing section 6 is provided with a color conversion table having a standard printing characteristic for each color, which performs color adjustment correspondingly to an adjustment curve set to each color before and after color adjustment processing and then, executes the processing for isolating unnecessary data (so-called masking). Then, the image processing section 6 applies the density duty time conversion (so-called gamma compensation) to the obtained color print data using a set predetermined heat compensation coefficient and then, transmits the resultant print image data D_{PR1} , D_{PG1} , and D_{PB1} to a printing section 7. See Horii, column 3, lines 57 to 67.

However, Horii is not seen to disclose or suggest that color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a printing paper are acquired, as color values used as a black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing paper, from an output profile for converting a signal independent of the image output apparatus into a signal dependent on the image output apparatus. Moreover, Horii is not seen to disclose or suggest the attendant benefits provided by this feature.

In addition, Lin has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Horii. In particular, Lin is not seen to disclose or suggest that color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a printing paper are acquired, as color values used as a black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing paper, from an output profile for converting a

signal independent of the image output apparatus into a signal dependent on the image output apparatus, nor the attendant benefits provided thereby.

Claim 41 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, independent Claim 46 is an apparatus claim which generally corresponds to method Claim 41. Accordingly, Claim 46 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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